

## Page applications available

Rep. Devin Nunes is looking for an outstanding high school student in Fresno or Tulare County to spend part of the summer as a Page in



the House of Representatives.

This unique program gives students the opportunity to meet students from around the country, attend special classes and seminars at the Page School, and

serve the country's leaders while working in the House of Representatives.

There are two summer sessions: June 13-July 1 and July 11-29. The application can be obtained online at [www.nunes.house.gov](http://www.nunes.house.gov). The application must be received no later than March 25 at 5 p.m. Applications will be reviewed and a successful candidate will be forwarded to the Speaker of the House for consideration in either session.

If you or someone you know are interested in applying for a House Page position you can download the appropriate application forms from the congressman's website on the constituent services page.

## Art competition seeks students

Rep. Devin Nunes is looking for the best high school artist in Fresno and Tulare counties to display their artwork on Capitol Hill for a year.

The winner of "An Artistic Discovery" competition from the 21st Congressional District will get round-trip airfare for three to Washington, D.C. for a national reception to honor young artists throughout the country and view their artwork at the nation's capitol.

"From previous art competitions I know that we have many talented young artists here in the 21st Congressional District," Rep. Devin Nunes said.

The deadline to submit artwork to the congress-



Above: Last year's winner was a charcoal sketch by Clovis East student Alicia Salas.

man's Clovis or Visalia offices is April 8, 2005. Specific guidelines for the artwork, including acceptable dimensions and categories, can be obtained by calling Rep. Nunes' office at (559) 733-3861, or logging on to the constituent services page.

The entries will be judged by a distinguished panel of local art experts.

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ing."

Rep. Dennis Cardoza agreed.

"The Central Valley is being shortchanged by the federal government," said Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced. "With an exploding population, it's time to pull people together to coordinate a plan of action and make the most of our resources in order to address our problems."

Rep. Richard Pombo praised the study.

"This study gives us a good baseline assessment and solidifies the case for more funding," said Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo, R-Tracy. "More important, we must focus on projects already in the works that will better the lives of the people living in the Central Valley. We must create transporta-

tion solutions, which will lead to access to better jobs and improve the overall economy."

Rep. Devin Nunes added: "Considering the challenges we face here in the Central Valley with chronic, high unemployment and pervasive poverty, we have been overlooked for federal investment and assistance," said Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Visalia. "I think it is unrealistic to ask for new money to level the playing field. What we need to do is make sure the San Joaquin Valley is getting its fair share of existing federal dollars that are already allocated."

But even as the report details ongoing problems in the eight-county region, the lawmakers have already been involved in efforts to reverse the federal funding trend. Last year, the law-

makers joined forces to strengthen a Clinton-era Executive Order mandating increased federal attention to the Central Valley. The changes to the Executive Order were signed by President George Bush and are being implemented by a federal task force.

The bipartisan group of lawmakers said they will use the information found in the new report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to leverage even greater help through the task force in the months and years to come.

The lawmakers also laid out an action plan to address issues raised in the report:

The congressmen have requested a meeting with officials at the White House to discuss the report and identify areas of priority.

For instance the report may be utilized the report to

advance a bill to include Hwy. 99 in the federal interstate system.

Each congressman will hold events in their districts to help local governments and agencies improve their efforts to apply for and receive federal grants and contracts.

Congressman Nunes concluded.

"Highway 99 is the economic umbilical cord for the Central Valley to the greater commercial centers in northern and southern California," said Rep. Nunes, who introduced the bill last month. "As a coalition of lawmakers, we can make the improvements needed to ensure the continued growth of industry and jobs here at home."